

February /

March

1991



Alternative

Information

Record

AIRMAIL



HELLO to all our readers, especially our new subscribers and those seeing AIR for the first time.

This is the first of the International issues of AIR. As we write this editorial the war in the Gulf is over, but the peace remains to be won.

Inside we provide a selected reading list on the Gulf/Middle East; without the understanding that books and other media can provide, there will be no true and lasting peace there or elsewhere, merely a continuation of resentment, hatred and violence.

This issue features an extended look at US peace resources of various kinds, also resources in Poland, Sri Lanka and elsewhere. There is an important statement from South Africa on how librarianship relates to the situation there, and numerous other items.

Our plans for the future include producing AIR posters and badges, also more resources reviews and reading lists.

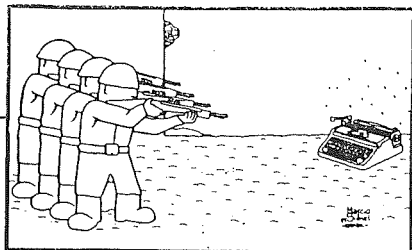
We would like again to extend an invitation to our readership to help put AIR together. Also more pieces for the newsletter and original graphics would be very welcome.

Thanks to those who have already contributed to our next issue, AIR 6, which is already fully planned.

ALL correspondence to AIR should be addressed to:

Librarians Within the Peace Movement,  
c/o 6 Endsleigh Street  
London WC1

Editorial Board:  
Martyn Lowe, Helen  
Thomas, Declan McHugh



AIR Issue No. 5  
Martyn Lowe and  
Declan McHugh:  
writing, typing,  
design & production.

The United States Institute for Peace continues to be very busy. Most of the information below comes from its 1989 report. In 1989 the Institute published a survey of library holdings in selected US metropolitan areas on the subjects of peace, security and international conflict resolution. Much work remains - "Worldwide, the repositories of materials on international conflict and conflict resolution are vast. Yet, because of the enormous amount of effort and funds required, there has been only partial success in locating and classifying peace collections." (Institute for Peace, Biennial Report, 1989). Librarians Within the Peace Movement and AIR will be doing their bit to fill in the gaps.

The institute is publishing a "Guides to Library of Congress Subject Headings and Classification on Peace and International Conflict Resolution". This work will render the vast peace holdings of the Library of Congress (and also the many college, university, and public library systems of the United States which use this classification system) accessible to people particularly interested in peace issues. In 1989 the Institute also began locating US audio and visual oral history resources related to peace and international conflict resolution. 103 libraries were surveyed that year. Gaps are being filled in by interviewing officials eg about their roles during World War Two. There were 155 interviews by the end of 1989.

\* \* \* \* \*

More than 300 colleges and universities in the US include domestic and international conflict-related subject matter in their curricula.

\* \* \* \* \*

At Columbia University a computerized data bank of military arms production is being created. The data bank deals with all levels of arms production and the impact of that production on civilian sectors of Third World countries. (This database presumably complements the SIPRI one which is more orientated towards the exports of arms by First World countries to the Third World - See elsewhere in this issue for more information on SIPRI).

\* \* \* \* \*

The Hoover Institute on War, Revolution and Peace, at Stanford University in the US, has 1.6 million volumes, almost 4,000 archival collections, numerous periodicals and much else. A Project is adding details of holdings to those centralised databases which facilitate interlibrary loans, thereby progressively opening up the collections to 10,000 libraries worldwide.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Swarthmore Peace Library has the largest collection of peace material in the US (presumably a distinction is being made here between 'peace' materials and materials on war, or international relations). Collections include photos, biographical material, history, books, pamphlets, etc. Swarthmore does keep National Peace Council annual reports, but I think their holdings of other British peace movement materials are very limited.

Address: Swarthmore Peace Collection, Swarthmore, PA 19081, USA.


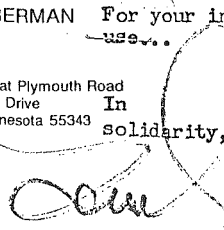

\* \* \* \* \*

And finally - only in America...

"American Park" in Independence, Missouri is being planned. The bomb is the theme and there will be an atomic library as well as videos explaining how atomic energy works - alongside material on Hiroshima, Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, etc. Organisers hope to obtain declassified documents on the development of the atomic bomb. (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, March 1990).

Declan McHugh

SANFORD BERMAN PACK

Dear Colleagues,  
 For your info/  
 usa...  
 SANFORD BERMAN  
 Head Cataloger  
 Library  
 Ridgedale Drive at Plymouth Road  
 12601 Ridgedale Drive  
 In Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343  
 (612) 541-8570  
 solidarity,  
  
 9-21-90  
  


Sanford Berman, head cataloger at Hennepin County Library in Minnesota, USA, is a very busy man. He produces the Hennepin County Library Cataloging Bulletin which is dedicated to amending and adding, from a libertarian perspective, Library of Congress subject headings (note also the piece above on the US Institute for Peace); he co-edits with Jim Danky "Alternative Library Literature", a biennial anthology of provocative articles that library literature collections tend to shy away from; he has a big input into the Minnesota Library Association branch of the American Libraries Association Social Responsibilities Round Table (MSRRT), and still finds time to take part in workshops on such topics as 'Librarians as Activists' plus write or co-write reading lists such as "Christopher Columbus Quincentennial: is there anything to celebrate?".

Sanford has been described as a "Librarian gadfly" by 'American Libraries' periodical - I imagine he takes this as a compliment. He kindly took the time to send us "in solidarity" a big pack of materials relating to activist librarianship in the US, including the complete Hennepin County Library subject headings fiche! The package also included a reading list on "Smoking - Political aspects" (a subject close to my heart), and "Videos for a Nuclear Age and Notable Distributors of Videos on Nuclear Issues". Both dealt with American sources.

Reading through the various materials I am envious of the vigour there seems to be in the American activist librarian movement. The MRSST newsletter makes fascinating reading featuring news, special collections, recommended reading/videos/street art, events, periodicals received, etc. Hopefully we can get AIR in the latter section. The National SSRT is 1,000 strong and puts forward resolutions at the American Libraries Association AGMs - in 1990 these included motions urging: better library service to poor people, libraries to stock materials on the effects of Christopher Columbus's voyage on the Native Americans, and guidelines for librarians interacting with South Africa.

We have no body in Britain putting forward similar resolutions to the Library Association (though I did put forward with others in 1986 the motion that the LA should disinvest from Barclays bank in order to put further pressure on apartheid. This was passed. I also got the constitution amended to allow for the possibility of unemployed librarians getting funding to be able to go to AGMs.) Perhaps LWPM should think about how it might in a more coordinated fashion put resolutions to the LA on peace and social justice issues.

Sanford has been plugging away for twenty years at inappropriate subject headings in use by the Library of Congress, calling the LC classification system "white, imperialist, and Christian-oriented". For example, it is obvious that God, so far as the LC is concerned, is the Christian God. Another example concerns different peoples. He (and many others) think that 'Eskimos' should be known as Inuit - what they call themselves. LC has no subject headings for 'antiwar films' or 'war toys'. His efforts have had some, but limited, impact. "LC changes not just reluctantly, but at sword point!"

We hope to stay in touch with Sanford and other US librarian activists in the future. Sanford can be reached at:  
4400 Morningside Road, Edina, MN 55416, USA.  
Tel: (612) 925 5738.

Declan McHugh

W. R. L.

#### WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE

The War Resisters League (WRL) is the United States section of the War Resisters International (WRI). Founded in 1923, WRL has its origins as far back as 1915.

WRL has a very strong tradition of Nonviolent Direct-Action (NVDA), which is reflected in the WRL's 16 page literature list. This list includes the following works, which are published by WRL: 'Guide to war tax resistance', 'WRL Organisers Manual', 'Stop War Toys Campaign pack', and 'Anti-Draft pack'. Other works sold by WRL include 'Underdogs Versus Upperdogs', by Jim Peck. Jim Peck was for many years one of the most active members of WRL, a World War Two C.O., who has been arrested some 55 times since 1935, and was on some of the first anti-segregation 'Freedom Rides' during 1947 & 1961!

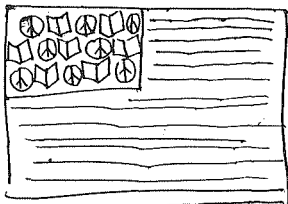
The WRL literature list also includes a lot of other books about pacifism & Nonviolence. e.g. by Martin Luther King, A.J. Muste, and Dorothy Day. The WRL also produce a Peace Calender, this year's theme being 'A Way of Life - Celebrating sustained activism'.

War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012, U.S.A.

M.L.

Librarians for Nuclear Arms Control (LNAC) Almanac.

We wrote a little piece about LNAC in AIR 2, but didn't say much about the newsletter. It appears roughly quarterly and features anti-nuclear bibliographies, videographies, lists of curriculum material, etc. Address: P.O. Box 60552. Pasadena, CA 91116, USA.

Alternative Press Index

This is a quarterly subject index to articles and reviews published in over 200 alternative, progressive and radical newspapers, journals, and magazines. Address: P.O. Box 33109 Baltimore, MD USA. Tel: 212180401

The Data Centre

This is a socially responsible library in Oakland, California which clips and files several thousand articles a week, from both liberal and conservative sources, on social and political issues. Contact Zoia Horn at: 464 19th St., Oakland, CA 94612, USA. Tel: (415) 835-4692.

Sipapu

Noel Peattie is an archivist of library activist history, and the semiannual 'Sipapu' is for librarians and others interested in alternative and small press literature. Address: Route 1, Box 216, Winters, CA 95694, USA.

The Incredible Librarian

She is a cartoon character, with the amazing power to access all of history's recorded knowledge, who has risen from the pen of Joseph Grant to do battle with the stereotypes we know so well (and feature in every issue of AIR). Address: Box 25544-Library Lane, Tempe, AZ 85285. USA. Tel: (602) 731-9357.

Declan McHugh

## BIBLIOTEKA EKOLOGICZNA

ul. Kościuszki 79  
60-967 Poznań

tel. 521-325



An Ecological library in Poznan, Poland has been started to provide the information base necessary to help solve the various ecological problems in the country. The library has widespread support and distributes some of its books to libraries in eastern Europe. Books have been donated from many countries. "Materials gathered by the Library are accessible to everyone on equal basis, without censorship".

KURDISH LIBRARY and ARCHIVE

The Kurdish Cultural Centre is setting about establishing a library "which would go towards preserving the Kurdish culture and heritage that is systematically being destroyed in Kurdistan". They wish to collect books on Kurdish culture, history, language and affairs and the Centre also hopes to expand its archive of videos, audios, photographs, slides, etc. Donations are sought. (Kurdish Cultural Centre News, February 1990).

Kurdish Cultural Centre  
14 Stannary Street,  
London S.E.11.

Tel: 071 735 0918

## SRI LANKA

The Nonviolent Direct Action Group in Sri Lanka has written to us. The group maintains a public library in Chavakachcheri, yards from the group Secretariat. This library has 300 members and the children's section has almost 100 members. The library opens seven days a week and is the only one of its kind in the Jaffna district. The group's second anniversary will be celebrated on Christmas Day 1991. The secretary writes "I shall be very thankful to you if you could request your member organisations to donate Children's books for the NVDAG library". Appropriate books, please, to the address above, if anyone can respond; a bloody war continues to leave physical and mental scars on the adults and children of Sri Lanka.

Declan McHugh

அறவழிப் போராட்டக்குழு  
*Nonviolent Direct Action Group*  
(FOUNDED IN 1979)

Secretariat

22, KANDY ROAD  
KAITHADI - NUNAVIL  
CHAVAKACHCHERI.

— NVDAG —

POST BOX 2  
CHAVAKACHCHERI  
SRI LANKA

## South Africa

'The Library and Information Workers Organisation (LIWO) of Natal was formed by individuals dedicated to working for free and equal access to information in a non-racial, non-sexist democratic South Africa. LIWO commits itself to organising and participating in campaigns that further anti-apartheid objectives.'

'LIWO recognises:-

The inalienable right of every person to participate in the free and equal exchange of information.  
 The right of library and information workers to collect, store and distribute information freely and without interference.  
 That everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and that this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media.  
 That library and information services in South Africa have been distorted by apartheid in such a way that the information needs of the majority are not being satisfied.

LIWO believes that:-

Equal access to information is essential to the development of a free, non-racial, united and democratic South Africa.

LIWO therefore commits itself in principle and practice to:  
 The selection, presentation and distribution of information to all, without prejudice, and to resisting any attempt to interfere with that objective.  
 Developing information services in response to community needs.  
 Promoting research into library and information services.  
 Promoting democratic procedures and practices in the work place.  
 The elimination of all discrimination, in particular that based on class, race and sex both in relation to users and in the work place.  
 Initiating and developing communication between LIWO members and information workers in other countries, particularly neighbouring African countries.  
 Initiating and developing contacts and links with progressive organisations in South Africa.'

Reproduced from LIWOLET, the newsletter of LIWO, Volume 1, Number 1, September 1990.

LIWO, c/o Department of Information Science,  
 University of Natal (PMB), P.O.Box 375,  
 Pietermaritzburg 3200, South Africa.





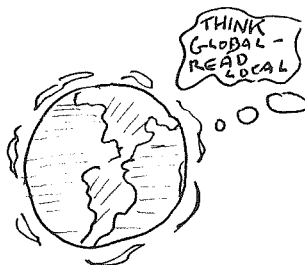
The history of twenty years of diplomatic duplicity, intelligence bungling, greed and corruption, particularly on the part of Britain, the US, France and Germany. Very good on the arming of Saddam by the West. Excellent Bibliography.

#### Two important Periodicals

Middle East International. Available from: 21 Collingham Rd., London SW5 ONU, Britain. Weekly.

Middle East Report. Available from: MERIP, Suite 119, 1500 Massachusetts Ave., Washington DC 20005, USA. Monthly.

Declan McHugh



## SIPRI

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute ( SIPRI ) is one of the most prestigious and best known peace research institutes in the world. SIPRI publications are also some of the best Reference works available of their kind.

'SIPRI is an independent institute for research into problems of peace and conflict, with particular attention to the problems of arms control and disarmament. It was established in 1966 to commemorate Sweden's 150 years of unbroken peace. The institute is financed by the Swedish Parliament.'

SIPRI publications include: ' The SIPRI Yearbook' ( which is indispensable to anyone wishing to study the arms race and disarmament attempts in detail), 'Military expenditure', 'Success and failure in arms control negotiations', and a series of works upon the subject of Biological and Chemical weapons.

Within the U.K. SIPRI books are available from the Oxford University Press, OUP Bookshop, Freeport, 116 High Street, Oxford OX1 4BR.

SIPRI. Pipers Väg 28, 17173 Solna, Sweden.

M.L.

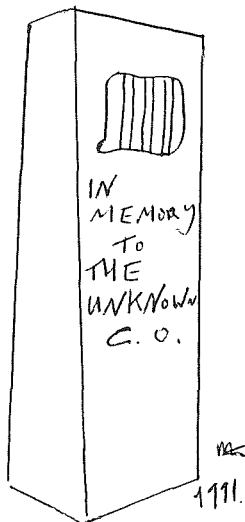
In 1983 some 70 C.O.s ( Conscientious Objectors ) were shot in Iraq. The families of these C.O.s were only allowed to collect the bodies if they paid for the bullets.

During World War One British C.O.s were tied to crucifixes and placed there for hours in No Man's Land.

M.L.

As another war comes to a bloody end it is more appropriate than ever to think about ways in which we can apply our undoubted human ingenuity and skill to learning from the past, so we can address the problems of the world rather than improve our means of slaughtering each other.

One idea, put forward in these pages and elsewhere and striking a chord with quite a few people, is that peace museums represent a way we can learn from the mistakes of the past and take inspiration as we seek to build a less violent, more peaceful future.



A new museum, opening in Peronne in France in 1992, takes World War One as its focus and claims to be the first modern museum of that war. Peronne is in the Somme region where 35 countries fought and 60,000 British troops were killed or wounded on just one day - July 1st 1916. "We are not a museum of uniform or arms. We want to show how people lived through the period - a much wider concept than just battles" the Director, Hugues Hairy, says. He expects 150,000 visitors annually. "We show how the French, Germans and British had so many things in common that war seemed avoidable, and a few divergences that made it inevitable". Adjoining the museum there is a study centre led by prominent historians from Britain, Germany and France.

In Verdun, France, there is an ossuary holding the remains of 150,000 soldiers - not even a quarter of those who lost their lives there. Verdun's "Centre Mondial de la Paix, des Libertes et des Droits de l'Homme" opens in 1993. The central feature is to be a Museum of Peace. The idea has received support from the Pope and Perez de Cuellar, Secretary General of the UN. The Director, Pierre Noel, says "people are so trapped in the chronology of conflicts that they cannot imagine peace and liberty as attractive. We don't want to see peace as the interval between wars, we are against the grade school concept of teaching history in terms of conflicts rather than in terms of what drew people together".

A number of people in Britain will be getting together in future months to discuss the possibility of a Peace Museum here. AIR will keep you up to date.

Declan McHugh.

A bumper issue of nasties this issue, and one goodie!

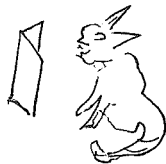
1) The Yellow Pages TV ad. Scenario: old man is looking for a particular book in the library and encounters a bebunned, spectacled, woman librarian who is so grim that she doesn't even speak to him, merely shakes her head severely. Thanks for setting back the image of librarians fifty years, Yellow pages.

2) "In this stocking-filler hotchpotch, Mole's scribbings describe a life of librarianship, familial angst and unconsummated love for the ozone-friendly Pandora" (Taken from a Weekend Telegraph review of "True confessions of Adrian Albert Mole" by Sue Townsend, Mandarin, 1990)

3) "It appeared that he was not a pansy, as many people thought - simply because he was a librarian, was known to have ironed his own shirts, hung up his own curtains, and subscribed to a cooking magazine". (from "Dingley Falls" by Michael Malone, Abacus Books, 1980)

4) The Ronald Reagan library!

5) "Surely the imagined love affair between the repressed librarian, Jean, and her boss can have little to do with two schoolgirls, Bridge and Hattie" (Guardian Books Review, Jan 10 1991)



6) "On the advice of a local librarian, Tonbridge schoolteacher, Jean Pink, read (Peter) Singer's 'Animal Liberation'. It changed her life and signalled the birth of the modern campaign for Animal Rights" (Time Out's 20th Anniversary issue)

## In Brief

### Thought for this issue

"Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent"

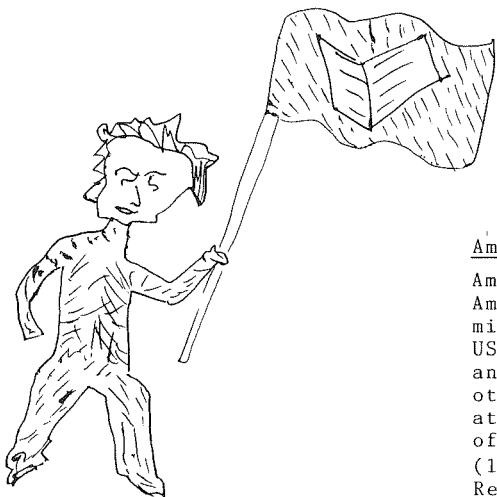
- Quoted by a character in the Science Fiction book 'Foundation' by Isaac Asimov. Weidenfeld & Nicolson - 1953.

### C.B.W / B.L.D.S.C Bibliography

The British Library Document Supply Centre (B.L.D.S.C.) Medical Information Service have produced a new bibliography on chemical and biological (C.B.W) warfare injuries. The bibliography contains some 240 references, and is available free on request.

Before the start of the Gulf War, B.L.D.S.C. were preparing to send copies of this bibliography to any U.K hospital which received C.B.W. casualties.

British Library Document Supply Centre,  
Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 7BQ



### American Librarians Protest Gulf War

American Librarians protested at the American Library Association (ALA) midwinter conference in January at the US government abandonment of the sanctions and diplomacy option; also the ALA and other organisations expressed concern at the military censorship and pooling of reports which took place in the Gulf (longer report in the Library Association Record, March 1991 issue).